Aug. 90

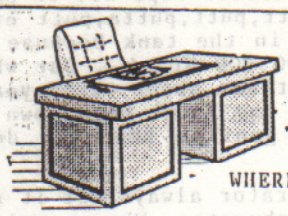
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SPLATTER

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

This Sardine Wrapper is printed from time to time and distributed to the membership of the TAMAQUA TRANSMITTING SOCIETY, Tamaqua, Pa. 18252

FALL 1990 ISSUE



FROM WHERE WE SIT

Having written many editorials in the past for this Sardine Wrapper, have you ever noticed that we are always gripeing, complaining, or nit-pickin' someone, group, or thing. Well if you look at the news paper editorials you will find the same holds true with them.

As we look around us we can always pull something from the ham bands to nit-pick. After beating the drum and voicing our opinion about no-code, we'll drop that and go down a different avenue for a topic.

In this issue we'll work on ARRL's publications, for example the Annual Leagues Handbook. I have a Handbook that dates back to 1922. It, and all between 1948 only cost a buck, Yes $ 1.00 per edition. Then they took a hike in price. Either fifty cents or a dollar was added each year and by 1978 they cost $ 8.50. My latest purchase was the 1990 edition for $23.00, Now let us review each edition by contents. The basic electronic laws and theory, and propagation and antenna theories have never changed and duplicated in each edition. I guess the only excuse we'll get is that we must pay extra for the new construction projects that appear each year.

How many of you recall when the ARRL repeater handbook was FREE ? After about three years of free-bees they decided to charge a buck. You know the rest, now the price is $ 5.00 and going up.

My latest hang-up is the license manual. I have a license manual that only cost fifty cents back in 1948. Would you beleive me if I told you it covered all grades, Novice, Technician, General, and Extra class questions and answers. There was no advanced class at that time period.

Continued elsewhere

RECALLING THE 90's

We don't really mean the Gay 90's, just the year 1990 in review. As I recall I started the new year by pumping a bit of brass on straight key nite and after changing the ice cubes about six times the dit's all come out as dah's.

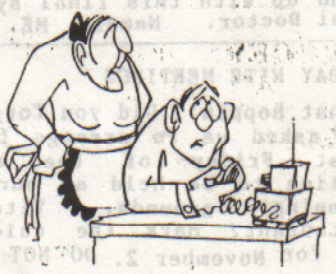
Well enough of the good life. The end of January brought forth a goodly number of students for our novice class and after ten weeks were fortunate to add another dozen operators to the hobby.

At our annual hamfest we seen a few of them cash in on a Technician and General class tickets. The hamfest itself was one to reminisce during the coming cold winter nights. It is also historic since we shall not hold any more in the month of May. The 1991 Hamfest has been moved to a new date, June 2, 1991. Mark it on the calendar.

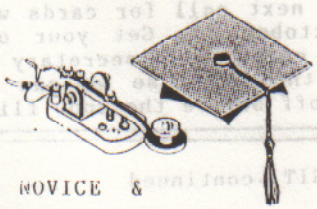
Then came the club entry in the VHF QSO party followed two weeks later by Field Day experience. Due to a back injury ye editor was unable to make his usual 150 contacts. Oh well, the new members did a marvelous job in filling in for me. Then again, there's next year to consider. As in the past, the society took July off to rest.

Then came August and the Annual Family picnic. I bet your waiting for me to tell you what you missed. Ya' gotta nuther think coming. There were too many things all happening at the same time that there is'nt enough room in this bulletin to give you an instant replay.

Last activity for 1990 is the Annual Christmas party and awards night. Are you going to miss that one also ?



QRM!



NOVICE & ADVANCED CLASSES

In our summer issue of the bulletin we stated the society will sponsor Novice Classes again. In addition an Advanced class course will be made available. The Tamaqua School Board had been contacted and we have permission to use two class rooms in the Tamaqua High School for twelve weeks.

Classes will begin January 25 1991 and continue thru April 12 Both classes shall require preregistration. Applications will be available at the Tamaqua High School or via the society secretary. There will NOT be any applications or registrations accepted at the first class night. All registrations must be returned no later than January 18.

Candidates for Novice class instruction will be required to purchase the "Tune in the world" tapes and manual. The Advanced course shall require the up-dated version of ARRL's license manual. Additional data and hand out sheets will be furnished by the society gratus.

There you have it. This will be your one and only notice. Mark the calendar and file your applications before January 18. Got more questions See us at the next society meeting night.

Enclosed find a class registration form. If you don't use it, give it to a friend who may be interested. See you in class.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Officers for 1991 will be nominated and elected at the Xmas party. Do you have some one in mind to take an official roll in running society activities for next year. Speak up and be heard.

CALL FOR DX QSL's

Notice to our society members who make use of the DX QSL mailing system. We havn't had a mailing since early spring, mainly due to the fact that our DX bands have been elstinko.

Then there may be the answer. Ever since the Bouvett frackus it seems as if a number of expeditions have been cancelled. They usually give the excuse there were insufficient funding available. Mebe so, what do you think ?

The next call for cards will be October 20. Get your outgoing cards to ye secretary before the 20th. so we can get them off before the snow flies.

WE SIT -continued

Now if you want a license manual you must purchase each class manual individually. Price wise they go from five to eight dollars each, yes each. So if you want to go from Novice to Extra it will cost you in the neighborhood of $ 31.00 just for the manuals.

Now for the clincher, each manual is only good for a year and a half to two years. Then the FCC question pool is changed and manual you purchased a year ago is obsolete. Back in 1948 when you bought the manual it was good for nearly fifteen years. I know because when I took the Extra class exam in 1960 I used the 1948 license manual, the same one we used for the General Class in 1950.

So now we come down to the wire, why does ARRL have these obnoxious prices for manuals that become out-dated in such a short time ? Our recent novice classes for example required the instructor to buy a new manual each year. Just another reason why he has reneged on teaching any future novice class. We therefore have come to the conclusion that the A.R.R.L. has become money hungry.

While in process of printing this bulletin, one of our members asked,will the new exams go into affect for General class when exams are given by our VE team on November 3. The answer, Yes they do. Now for a double clincher. He just purchased a General class license manual from ARRL. He received same via mail around September 15. Believe it or not, it was the old issue which shall be obsolete as of October 31. He paid 8 bux plus 3 for shipping for a license manual that is only good for six weeks. It is now verified, the ARRL is money hungry.

BE KIND TO YOUR GENERATOR

If you are a ham like I am then you probably have a rig, antennae, and all the VHF - HF beams to put into motion in case of an emergency. Oh ! I forgot one item on the afore mentioned list, a gas powered electric generator, or by todays lingo - an alternator. This is definitely a must item when the lights go out. When they dim and blank into darkness so does your ice'a box and all that nice emergency radio gear go pffttt.

Now let us simulate such a power failure and after waiting the usual time limit for it to come back on, we get the flash light and blunder around in the dark and wala, we find the generator stored behind a bunch of junk in the garage. We position it out in the yard or driveway so no one dies from carbon monoxide gas and proceed to crank her over. As we pull the starter rope all we hear is fooof,fooof,fooof and not the usual putt,putt,putta,putt etc. Now what ? I know there is plenty of gas in the tank because it was half full the last time I used it. BOO BOO Nr. 1 . But when was the last time we used it - Oh yes, that was about three years ago when some nut ran into and sheared off the power pole down in the next block. Thats when we needed the geni to keep the deep freezer running.

TIP Nr. 1. When ever you run the generator always let it run the gas tank dry. This also empties the carburetor. When gasoline is stored for an exceptionally long time a coating of varnish forms in the tank, but the damage is done in the carburetor ports and jets get clogged with said varnish.

Okey, so you remembered that old trick and it still goes fooof,fooof. When was the last time you cleaned and gaped the spark plug ? Suggestion, if there is more than one hundred running hours on the plug, replace it. They only cost a buck. In an emergency clean it with a wire brush and reset the gap points as per the manual. Before replacing rinse the plug points in gasoline to clean out all the left over gunk and carbon.

Finally you get the engine started and it's putt-putt-putting right along. What follows, we get a power cord connected up to our equipment and expect to get some sort of sign that the electric current is coming through, but nothing works, nothing lights up, no glimmer. We're still in the dark. At this point get out the V.O.M. Don't forget to set it for AC voltage readings. Check for output right at the generator socket. Now if you got power someone jinxed your power cord.

BUT what if there is no showing of output voltage ? "That can't be" you say. The engine is perking right along and we should have some sort of power coming from it. Neh eh, Nix, Nein, Nyet, not so my friend, you now have generator problems and this could involve a number of defects that crop up in A.C. generators, They are now called alternators.

Nearly all generators, if overloaded will just stall the engine. Some of the newer type have current overload circuit breakers that open should your load requirements become to large. So you can rule out the idea that the geni has had an internal hemorage and has a burned or open field winding.

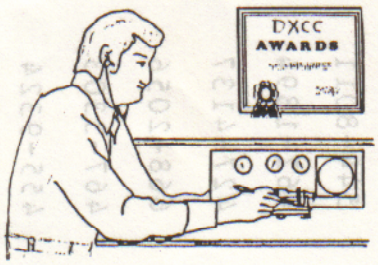
NOTE X-X-X. The following tests and remedies should be administered by an experienced electrician who has worked on alternators before.

(a) The sliprings could be tarnished or corroded and need to be shined up. Do not use emery cloth or a file to polish same. An electrician would have a special polishing stone for the job or use 00 grade sand paper.

(b) After the shinola job you should have much better voltage and load regulation. HOWEVER if you still have no voltage output, then you got real problems. All generators require magnetism or a magnetic field to make electricity and your geni has lost its magnetic personality. Namely, the field coils no longer are magnetized which can be restored in two ways. Since this requires some ingenuity, dexterity, and most of all, Know-how. If you do wind up with this final symptom I suggest you take it to the GD, Geni Doctor. Namely ME.

FRIDAY NITE MEETINGS

What hoppen', Did you forget ? You asked us to arrange for a first Friday of the month meeting to be held at our old stomping grounds, Vitali's Restaurant. Mark the calendar now for November 2. DO NOT mark the first friday for December because you will be at the Xmas party on the 15th. just a week later. Incidentally, the Wednesday nite technical sessions are still held. Got a problem ? Maybe we can resolve it at one of these meetings.



THE MEMBERSHIP

Attached is a separate sheet listing our Tamaqua Society members. There are members that only come out of hibernation each year for Field Day and then there are those that show their bodies as part of the Annual Haamfest committee.

As in previous notation, we have no dues collection in our organization, just activities. In order for you to keep on our mailing and membership list we must see you active it two or more of our society functions each year. New membership cards will be issued around January 1991. If you don't receive yours, then you have a problem known as non-activeitis.

Our Society is now more that thirty years young. Yet, it is the oldest continuous operating amateur radio organization in Schuylkill county. By your continued attendance and activity the society will be around for some time to come.

THREATS BRING AMATEUR'S ARREST

On August 2, FBI agents assisted by FCC investigators arrested Anthony V. Marcantonio, KA2ZGE, of Queens, NY, and seized 20 pieces of his radio transmitting equipment. FCC earlier had responded to complaints that Marcantonio was "interfering with amateur radio communications by transmitting unidentified, disruptive signals on the two-meter amateur radio band," according to the FCC.

"On July 27, FCC investigators, using direction finding equipment, traced the signal to the Marcantonio home," FCC said. "The investigators discussed the situation with a family member who then shut the transmitter off. The transmissions resumed that evening and continued into the next day." It was then, according to FCC, that Marcantonio made death threats over the radio against an FCC investigator.

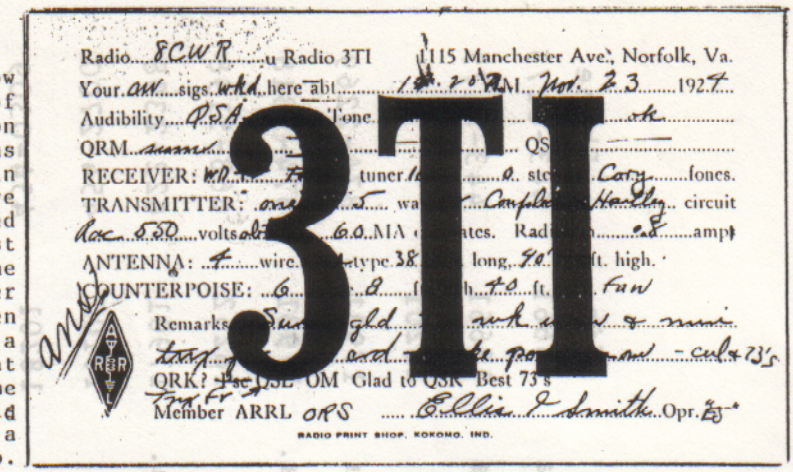
Marcantonio was charged with making threats by radio, a felony carrying a penalty of up to five years in prison, a $250,000 fine, or both. A federal judge set Marcantonio's bond at $50,000 following a hearing. (FCC public notice, Aug. 14, 1990.)



HAPPY HOLIDAYS
To all from
the editorial
staff.

CALL RESEARCH

Did you know that many of the station call signs which begin with W3--- have been reissued by FCC. Just about all the W3 two letter calls have been calls are a reissue. That means that some operator held it before, a long time ago. Furthermore, before the prefix W or K was used all station calls started with FCC district number. A brother QCWA member W9NN saw my picture and call in a recent QCWA bulletin and sent me one of the original 3TI QSL cards.(copy above) Notice, the 3rd call district went as far south as Virginia. I did more research and learned that the original owner of W3TI was Salvadore Riccobono from Washington, D.C.who became silent key around 1932. Our thanks to Robert Baird W9NN for the 3TI card and cause and reason for this article.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Just to refresh your grey matter, The Annual Society Xmas party will be Saturday of December 15. Try to get there some time between 6 and 6:30 so we can all eat by 7 o'clock. As in previous years, order from the menu as per your preference. Treat the XYL or lady friend, or bring some one else's. This will be the final society activity for 1990. See you there.

V E EXAM SKED

Last chance to get that up grade in Schuylkill county before 1991. The Society volunteer examiners will be at your service Saturday November 3rd. They will accommodate you at the Tamaqua Municipal building, 320 East Broad street.

If you require a code test please be present by 9 A.M. All written exams will follow. Pass the word along when your on the air, you'll never know who is listening. If you need more info contact W3TI or K3IJ.

FLASH IMPORTANT NOTICE

We have just been told by 3IVG via a Packet bulletin from KB3YS that he has been giving the wrong location for the exams. Please pass the correct info on the air as printed above.

DX BULLETIN

Those members who share the DX bulletin subscription should note the renewal for 1991 will be coming up in November. The more that subscribe will make donations smaller. See the secretary for details and a sample copy.



QCWA HOT-LINE

The Chapter 33 autumn dinner meeting will be held Saturday October 27 at 7:00 PM. The new location is at the Apple Mountain Country club on Rt. 624 Oxford,N.J. Use 147.045 repeater for talk-in.

Menu is as follows: Grilled Swordfish, Grilled Rib Steak, Stuffed Pork Chops, Chicken Marsala. Assorted vegies,soup,salad, desert and coffee. $16.00 per person covers tax & gratuities.

Contact W2WIY before Oct.23 and get your name on the list. This is not a closed dinner-meeting, bring a friend along. The dining area will accommodate 50. Treat the XYL or lady friend to a night out.

FLASH- We just learned that George,W3HK got married which proves that love lives on after 65. At least he could have invited us to the wedding. W2DGE flys over Tamaqua but hasn't located our QTH yet. Is W3APE going on a W6 safari again this year ?

HALLOWEEN PARADE OCT. 30

Volunteers for parade control please note-- All meet at the rear of the Tamaqua Municipal building at 5:30 for data sheets and post assignment. We should be in operating position by 5:45. C U there. Act. Mgr. K3NYX

TAMAQUA TRANSMITTING SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP LIST August 1990

Call	Class	Name	Address		Zip	Phone
AI3Q	X	William Feisner	RD 1 box 131	White Haven,Pa	18661	443-8175
AI3R	X	Maureen Feisner	RD 1 box 131	White Haven,Pa	18661	443-8175
K3IJ	X	Tom Krohn	558 Forest Hill Dr.	Hazleton, Pa	18201	
K3KNL	G	Mike Cuttic	750 W. Pine St.	Frackville, Pa	17931	874-2269
K3NB	X	Dave Evans	18 N. Balliet St.	Frackville, Pa.	17931	874-1818
K3NYX	T	Allen Breiner II	127 Market Street	Tamaqua, Pa.	18252	668-5198
K3SLJ	X	John Smetona	RD 1 Box 1107 Sharon Dr	Pottsville, Pa.	17901	622-2398
KA3OPX	T	Dan Yakubisin	700 Garfield Street	Hazleton, Pa.	18102	454-2700
KA3WGF	G	Jim Graver	327 Thirwell Ave.	Hazleton, Pa.	18201	454-0309
KA3WGG	G	Al Larichiuta	RD 1 Box 100	New Ringgold, Pa.	17960	386-3322
N3CQB	A	Dick Szumilo	207 E. Green St.	Hazleton, Pa.	18201	455-2322
N3GRD	T	Jim Rush	107 Upper Road	New Boston, Pa.	17949	773-3363
N3HHG	G	Harold Kunkel	420 Spruce Street	Tamaqua, Pa.	18252	668-0638
N3HHH	G	Andrew Hitzel	RD 4 Box 4027 Chestnut St.	Pottsville, Pa.	17901	544-8011
N3IHW	T	Howard Pollard	308 West Penn Street	Shenandoah, Pa.	17976	462-1894
N3JD	X	Joseph De Andrea	411 6th. Street	Weatherly, Pa.	18225	427-4137
NI3H	X	Dave Christ	406 Pine Street	Tamaqua, Pa.	18252	668-2056
NZ3W	X	Bob Petrey	RD 1 Box 1586	Barnesville, Pa.	18214	467-3303
W3IVG	X	Joseph Koval	705 West 12th Street	Hazleton, Pa.	18201	455-9324
W3TI	X	A. R. Breiner Sr.	212 Race Street	Tamaqua, Pa.	18252	668-3098